



**For Immediate Release
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Rep. Spiros Bills Passed In Assembly

Madison – Yesterday the Assembly voted to pass four bills that were authored by Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield). Assembly Bills 450, 487, 558, and 674 were all passed.

Assembly Bill 450 will prohibit any city, village, town, or county from enacting or enforcing an ordinance or policy that would prohibit an employee from inquiring about the immigration status of an individual who has been charged with certain crimes. It would also prohibit any policy that prohibits an employee from otherwise cooperating with or assisting the federal government with immigration enforcement.

“It’s important to note that this bill won’t require law enforcement to ask about immigration status in any circumstance,” Rep. Spiros said. “The goal of this bill is not to preempt local control, but to enforce federal law across the entire state for the protection of our citizens.”

Assembly Bill 487 will change the way animals are treated when they’re taken into custody after being victims of cruelty, abuse, neglect, and forced dog-fighting. Instead of being held as evidence for years in a crowded shelter, we’ll expedite the process to rehabilitate and adopt them out.

“Living animals aren’t traditional evidence, and they shouldn’t be treated as such,” Rep. Spiros said.

The bill will also help to remove some of the financial burden from local governments and taxpayers, requiring the owner of the animal to pay \$30 per day toward the animal’s boarding costs.

Additionally, the bill will help save animal lives. Currently, any dog older than one year who is seized because of animal abuse or dog fighting has to be euthanized. Under this bill, we’ll be able to rehabilitate and adopt out animals of any age. The bill will also save animal lives by reducing the stray hold time from 7 days to 4 days, halting the spread of disease in our crowded shelters and allowing animals to find a home.

Assembly Bill 674 allows an adult who is being prevented from visiting or communication with his or her adult parent, grandparent, child, or sibling to petition a court for visitation. Currently,

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adult children have few to no legal rights when it comes to their ailing parents. All rights relating to the care of ailing individuals belongs to their spouse or power of attorney. This leaves the children of these ailing individuals without the basic rights to visit their parents.

This bill creates a legal path for family members to petition a court to rule on visitation without incurring the enormous expenses of time and money necessary challenge to the guardianship or conservatorship. It would create a channel where the adult family members of an ailing individual to petition a court to rule on visitation when the patient in question is unable to make their own decisions regarding visitation.

“Elder abuse is a silent epidemic affecting thousands of people across the country and this type of abuse happens far more often than it should,” Rep. Spiros said. “This legislation will help to end the isolation that allows elder abuse.

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